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ABSTRACT

Published once each semester by Manhattan College (New York), the report serves as a resource for faculty and students as they deal with professional ethical dilemmas and conflicts in their course work and work lives. An insert in this introductory issue provides a formal statement of the Center for Professional Ethics' purpose and concerns, which include not only ethical problems arising within specific professions but also broader value questions related to justice, the public good, and the nature of economic systems, as well as the enduring questions of meaning and purpose for the individual and society. The lead article, a case study of an actual ethical conflict encountered in the workplace, serves as a concrete illustration of the Center's aims and resources. The issue also contains three biographical sketches of Center staff, an announcement of a computer ethics workshop, and a calendar of Fall, 1984 events. A brief editorial invites input and participation from members of the college community. (TRS)

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Manhattan College

Center For Professional Ethics

Report

Manhattan College, Riverdale, N.Y.

Center For Professional Ethics:

An Introduction

Perhaps the best way to introduce the Manhattan College Center for Professional Ethics is through a case study. This approach makes quite graphic the ethical dilemmas and conflicts people experience in their work lives. A case study is also an important resource the Center will make available to faculty and students as they deal with professional ethics in their course work.

The Kate Simpson Case.

(the following is an excerpt from Manuel Velasquez's Business Ethics: Concepts and Cases, Prentice Hall, 1982, p. 5) (with permission)

Kate Simpson had been working for the Atlanta branch of Lawton Medical Financing, Inc. (a small investment banking firm specializing in loans to medical groups) for one week. Besides the two secretaries, the Atlanta branch consisted of three professionals: Kate Simpson who planned on returning to graduate business school in six months and who was hired to help out in whatever capacity was needed; David Moore, an intelligent, affable, and energetic senior vice president who combined a pragmatic business streak with a strong moral sense; and Bill Hillman, a youngish vice president, who had been transferred from New York to the Atlanta branch four months before and who was outspoken about his intent to make Atlanta his permanent home. On Wednesday before leaving town, David had asked Kate to help him advise a hospital in Nashville that wanted to choose a consultant to study the purchase of a new facility. She was to review the proposals of the four consultants who were submitting bids. On Friday, when David returned, they were to meet with the hospital's board of directors to advise them on the proposals. Of the three bids she had received by Thursday noon, the one by Roberts and Company had emerged as the best study for the least amount of money.

I happened to go into Bill Hillman's office and found him on the phone talking to Thomas Rice, the fourth consultant whose office was in the same building, and whose bid was due

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- Meet The Staff

Director:

Dr. John R. Wilcox

Associates:

*Dr. Eileen M. Brady
*Dr. Marian Hunt, S.C.

Faculty Consultants:

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Dr. Peter W. Drake, F.S.C.
Dr. Estelle L. Fryburg
*Dr. Mary J. Giffra
Dr. Frederick Greene
Dr. Renaro Hashimoto
*Mr. Edward H. Meyer, Esq.
Dr. Anthony Luzzo
Dr. Eleanor T. Ostrau
Dr. Robert V. Thomann
Dr. John P. Wasacz

*Members of the faculty at the College of Mount St. Vincent

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Designed and edited by Lydia E. Arena.

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The Staff . . .

Dr. John R. Wilcox

Founder and director of the Manhattan College Center for Professional Ethics and



associate professor of religious studies at Manhattan College. Dr. Wilcox currently serves as a consultant in business ethics for the Association of Catholic

Colleges and Universities. Recipient of a doctorate in Christian ethics from Union Theological Seminary, he was a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands. Dr. Wilcox has taught applied ethics courses in the religious studies department, pioneering the introduction of professional ethics courses in the business and engineering curriculum. Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee for the College's

School of Arts & Sciences, he is a member of the Institute for Society, Ethics, and the Life Sciences, Society for Christian Ethics, Society for the Study of Business Ethics, and the Society for the Study of Professional Ethics.

Dr. Eileen M. Brady

Chairperson of the psychology department at the College of Mount St. Vincent. Dr. Brady is currently completing a study of interpersonal relationships through the sponsorship of a grant from the National Institute on Aging. A graduate of Fordham University where she earned her doctorate, Dr. Brady is a member of the American Psychological Association, the Eastern Psychological Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Sigma Xi. A member of the New York State Evaluation Committee for the College of Mount St. Vincent, Dr. Brady's research background includes studies in behavioral alterations in Parkinson patients, the psychophysiological mechanism of pain, and sex-role typing and attitudes in college students.

Sr. Marion Hunt, Ph.D.

Professor of philosophy at the College of Mount St. Vincent and past chairperson

of their philosophy department, Sister Marion plays an instrumental role in the planning and implementation of courses in ethics and business ethics.



A member of the American Philosophical Association, the American Catholic Philosophy Association, the Metaphysical Society and the Society for Phenomenology and Existentialism, she is also an active member of the Social Concerns Department for the Sisters of Charity. Recipient of a doctorate from Fordham University, she is chairperson for the Curriculum Committee at the College of Mount St. Vincent and served as a part-time faculty member at Malcolm-King: Harlem College Extension.



Editorial:

A new program and an invitation,

by Dr. John Wilcox

The Center is feeling its way. There are three faculty members working directly on developing the Center for Professional Ethics, but many more faculty members and students are interested in its goals. The collective wisdom of many people at the College is responsible for what has been accomplished so far and continued work depends upon that wisdom.

While the staff has contact with a number of interested administrators, faculty, and students, please don't wait to be asked for your advice and assistance. If you would like help in incorporating ethical issues more directly into your class lectures or need resources for research the Center is at your service. If you have advice to offer about dilemmas or problems in the professions which you think the Center should address, please let us know. If you are excited about this project, tell us--we need that type of support and encouragement.

We hope the Center for Professional Ethics is one more way in which Manhattan College can assist in coping better with the rapid change that confronts us all.

John R. Wilcox

Director

The Manhattan College Center For Professional Ethics:

Center Statement

September 1984



I. The Center for Professional Ethics: Response to Change

Change is a hallmark of modern professional life. Automated industries, genetic engineering, the omnipresent MBA, and the struggle for equality by women and minorities have raised profound ethical questions. Such transformations brought about by advances in science and technology, work specialization, and social evolution have created a crisis in values. In response to these developments, Manhattan College, in collaboration with the College of Mount St. Vincent, established the Manhattan College Center for Professional Ethics in January 1984.

II. Description:

Although focusing explicitly on professional ethics, the Center for Professional Ethics is founded on a general concern for values and ethics. Specific problems facing practitioners in medicine, business, engineering, and other professions occupy a significant place in the work of the Center. Thus issues such as the rights of patients, institutional and corporate responsibility, and private-public sector interaction will be raised. However, broader value questions related to justice, the public good, and the nature of economic systems will also be addressed. On a more fundamental level, the justification for ethical inquiry, as well as the enduring metaphysical questions of meaning and purpose for the individual and society also enter into the work of the Center for Professional Ethics. The religious heritage of the two colleges, within the context of a pluralistic American society, gives the Center a unique focus--the contribution that diverse religious traditions have made and can make to professional ethics and ethics in general.

Located in New York City, the Manhattan College Center for Professional Ethics draws upon the expertise of the business, financial, engineering, medical, legal and academic communities in the metropolitan area, as well as upon the resources provided by the faculty and administrations of both colleges. Manhattan and Mount St. Vincent alumni/ae make important contributions to their professions; their experience and insight play a significant role in the work of the Center.

III. Services of the Center for Professional Ethics:

Rather than introducing a new ethics curriculum, the Center uses a dissemination model that relies on mutual learning to stimulate awareness and discussions of ethical issues. The Center for Professional Ethics emphasizes faculty and professional development in the

belief that dissemination through faculty and professional practitioners is the most effective means of implementing a values approach. Instead of being compartmentalized within an ethics course or a written code, discussion of ethical issues should be part of the "ethos" of academic and professional life. In order to achieve these aims, the Center will:

- provide conferences, workshops, and training programs for area professionals in such diverse areas as education, business, and medicine.
- serve as a resource center to assist professionals in public and private sectors, as well as those in academic life,
- publish a newsletter containing resource material such as case studies, book reviews, conference dates, and discussions of specific ethical dilemmas,
- stimulate research in areas such as professional and corporate responsibility, codes of conduct, and issues facing women in the workplace.

IV. Staffing:

The administration of the Manhattan College Center for Professional Ethics is the responsibility of the director, Dr. John Wilcox (religious studies department, Manhattan College), as well as two associates, Sister Marion Hunt (philosophy department, Mount St. Vincent) and Dr. Eileen Brady (psychology department, Mount St. Vincent). Advising the Center for Professional Ethics are consultants from such disciplines as business, engineering, nursing, government, biology and education.



An Introduction . . . (cont'd)

in a few hours. Bill was about to hang up as I entered: "Fine, Tom. You owe me one now," he was saying, "but don't worry about it. Good luck getting the thing cranked out by five." Bill looked up and saw me as he slid a copy of the Roberts and Company proposal into an envelope. "Tom Rice really likes to run it down to the wire," he said. "Tom's just finishing their hospital proposal. I told him we'd let him glance at Roberts' version of the thing. Why don't you run it upstairs for him? You can wait and make sure we get it back." As I headed for the elevator I was furious with Bill for having placed me in the position of carrying a competitor's bid to Thomas Rice. But I had only a few moments to decide what I should do.

The following are illustrative of student responses to the problem Kate Simpson faced:

1. From an ethical point of view she must refuse to take the documents, but the question is how to do so without causing her dismissal.
2. The stickier ethical question has to do with her knowledge of the act. Even if she manages to avoid taking the papers and keeping her job, she still knows what has happened.
3. Kate, only working there a week, would almost have to bring it upstairs. She should talk to Moore about the problem when he comes back.
4. Bring the bid upstairs because Rice may not necessarily use it to underbid. He may find that his costs exceed the lowest bid.
5. I would take the bid upstairs because of a fear of losing my job. If I had been there longer, I definitely would have taken a different stand.
6. Bring the package upstairs and forget it.
7. I would tell Hillman that I would do it, but would discuss this "company policy" with Moore upon his return. Hillman may then think twice.
8. I feel that because of her knowledge of what is really going on she should have refused to bring the envelope upstairs and pointed out to Mr. Hillman the serious implications surrounding his unethical action. This is especially true because Hillman's boss is a very moral man and would not appreciate his practices.
9. She should have also hinted that rumors get started and that bosses usually hear of them. If Hillman still persisted she should suggest his taking it upstairs himself so as not to

implicate her, and she should make it clear that this action of his would not be recounted to anyone by her.

How would you advise Kate Simpson? Assisting you in answering that question is a function of the Center. There are several other ways in which the Center assists faculty and students:

- * Workshops on current issues, such as computer ethics.
- * Course modules on professional ethics: e.g., the ethical dimensions of using insider information.
- * Development of resource material for faculty research projects and student presentations: e.g., the current status of competitive bidding and advertising in engineering.
- * Guest lectures on professional ethics: e.g., "The Ethics of Genetic Engineering."

Computer Ethics Workshop Slated For Spring Semester

In the spring semester the Manhattan College Center for Professional Ethics will present a workshop on "Computer Ethics: Cases and Concepts" featuring Donn B. Parker, internationally known spokesperson in the field of computer ethics, and Deborah G. Johnson, assistant professor of philosophy and member of the Center for the Study of the Human Dimensions of Science and Technology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The workshop on Computer Ethics will focus on two areas: fundamental issues in computer ethics and case studies. The goals of the workshop are:

- * Faculty enrichment
- * Enhanced teaching ability
- * Accessibility to materials/techniques
- * Addressing campus issues

The date and time of the workshop will be announced by the Center for Professional Ethics later this semester.



Calendar, Fall 1984

On Campus Lectures . . .

All lectures will be held in Manhattan Hall, Room 438.



September

Monday 17

(1:25 P.M.) Dr. Ronald Filante, associate professor of economics and finance, will lecture on "Ethical Aspects of Exchange and Competition."

Friday 21

(12:20 P.M.) Brother B. Austin Barry, professor of civil engineering, will lecture on "Codes of Ethics in Engineering."

Monday 24

(12:20 P.M.) Dr. Daniel Haines, associate professor of mechanical engineering, will lecture on "The Engineer's Concern for Safety."

October

Friday 26

(12:20 P.M.) Dr. Howard Sohn, director, personnel research, Pfizer, Inc., will lecture on "Firms Dealing with Employees: the Right to be Hired."

Friday 26

(1:25 P.M.) Dr. Sohn will lecture on "Professional Responsibility and Employer Authority."

Monday 29

(12:20 P.M.) Mr. Dennis Morrissey, P.E., Burns and Roe, will lecture on "Confidentiality, Unionism, and the Faithful Agent."

Monday 29

(1:25 P.M.) Mr. Morrissey will lecture on "Firms Dealing with Employees: the Right to be Hired."

November

Friday 9

(12:20 and 1:25 P.M.) Dr. Judith Plaskow, associate professor of religious studies, will lecture on "Changing Perceptions of Men: Implications for the Workplace."

* Please note: The above is a partial listing as of publication date. For additional lecture dates and topics, contact the College at 212-920-0114.

National Seminars & Meetings . . .

* Monthly seminars and discussions on ethics are sponsored by the Jesuit Office, 50 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004. On Thursday, September 20, Father William Byron, S.J., president of the Catholic University of America, will discuss "Christianity and Capitalism" at 12:30 P.M. at the Merrill Lynch Auditorium, 165 Broadway, 20th floor, New York, NY.

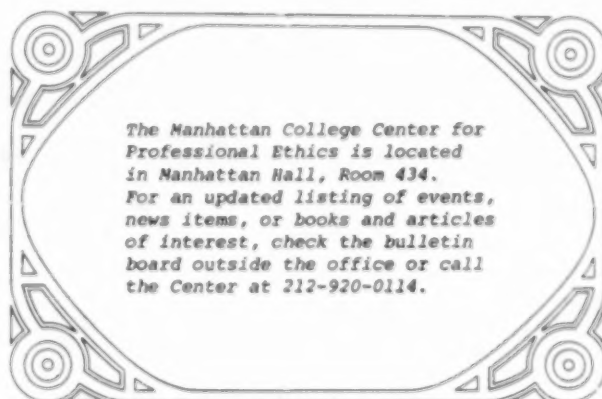
Discussion groups slated for the months of September and October will be held on:

Thursday, September 13
Wednesday, September 26
Thursday, October 11
Thursday, October 25

All groups will meet at 5:15 P.M. at the Jesuit Office. For a listing of discussion sessions for the months of November and December, contact the Jesuit Office at 212-558-6464.

* The First International Congress on Ethics in Medicine will be held at the Sir Immanuel Jakobovits Center for Jewish Medical Ethics, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beersheba, Israel, March 10-14, 1985. Further information may be obtained from the Beth Israel Medical Center, Medical Education Office, 10 Nathan D. Perlman Place, New York, NY 10003.

* The Society of Christian Ethics meeting in Atlanta, GA, scheduled for January 18-20, 1985, will devote a session to issues in teaching professional ethics. A new interest group, "Christian Ethics and the Professions," will also convene during this annual meeting. For more information about the Society, contact Dr. Terrence Anderson, Executive Secretary, The Society of Christian Ethics, Vancouver School of Theology, 6000 Iona Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1L4.



The Manhattan College Center for Professional Ethics is located in Manhattan Hall, Room 434. For an updated listing of events, news items, or books and articles of interest, check the bulletin board outside the office or call the Center at 212-920-0114.